

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 VO-05 IO-13 ISO-00 JUSE-00
SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /058 W
-----115240 240735Z /10

P R 240433Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1902
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA
INS/CO WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 0603

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: HARPOLD VISIT AND EAST COAST SITUATION

1. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, INS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER
HARPOLD ACCOMPANIED BY SECOND INS OFFICER AND EMBASSY REFUGEE AFFAIRS
SECTION PERSONNEL ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE EAST COAST CITY OF TRENGGANU.
COURTESY CALL ON TRENGGANU STATE SECURITY COUNCIL CHIEF E.DAUD
REVEALED UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES OVER RATE OF BOA
T
REFUGEE ARRIVALS ON COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. DAUD STATED THAT 41
9
INDOCHINESE HAD ARRIVED TRENGGANU TO DATE MONTH OF JANUARY IN THIS,
WORST OF MONSOON SEASON. WHILE HE ACKNOWLEDGED STEPPED-UP RATES OF
DEPARTURE IN U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN PROGRAMS, SECURITY CHIEF WAS NEVER-
THELESS DISMAYED OVER ANTICIPATED RATE OF ARRIVALS FIRST QUARTER 1978
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IN DISCUSSING TRENGGANU ACCEPTANCE POLICIES, DAUD, WHO IS LOCAL
ARBITER IN SUCH DECISIONS, RELATED CASE OF A VIETNAMESE VESSEL WHICH
HAD ARRIVED IN DISTRESS AT OIL DRILLING RIG OVER 100 MILES FROM
TRENGGANU COAST A FEW DAYS PREVIOUSLY. DAUD AUTHORIZED MALAYSIAN
VESSEL TO PICK UP REFUGEES AND BRING THEM TO TRENGGANU CAMP AT
PULAU BESAR.
COMMENT: AFTER TWO RATHER TENSE WEEKS, IT APPEARS NOW THAT POLICY

OF EAST COAST AUTHORITIES IS TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT UNSEAWORTHY BOATS AND TO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE SEAWORTHY BOATS TO MOVE ON. OVERALL ATTITUDE OF MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES STILL HINGES TO A GREAT EXTENT UPON THE RATE OF DEPARTURE FOR COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

2. MOVING ON TO PULAU BESAR CAMP HARPOLD AND SECOND INS OFFICER BEGAN IMMEDIATELY TO INTERVIEW CASES FOR INS APPROVAL. OFFICERS NOTED CAMP REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENT IN ASSISTING INTERVIEW PROCESS. GENERAL CAMP CONDITION (POP. 2,000) ASSESSED AS ADEQUATE IN TERMS OF FOOD, CLOTHING, SANITATION, ETC. OFFICERS APPROVED CASES UTILIZING 169 CE AND 106 "RECOUPPED" IPP MEMBERS AUTHORIZED THROUGH INS DIDIR HONG KONG. UNAVOIDABLE, U.S. INS PRESENCE COINCIDED WITH PRESENCE OF TWO-MAN AUSTRALIAN INTERVIEW TEAM THEN IN CAMP. PREDICTABLY, REFUGEES BEGAN WITHDRAWING THEIR AUSTRALIAN INTERVIEW SHEETS IN HOPES OF BEING CONSIDERED BY U.S. TEAM. BRIEF REMARKS, IN VIETNAMESE, BY EMBOFF TO CAMP LEADER QUICKLY HALTED THAT ACTIVITY.

3. DRIVING THROUGH EVENING EMBOFF AND HARPOLD ARRIVED KUANTAN LEAVING INS OFFICER DICK AND JVA REP TO CONTINUE INTERVIEWS AT TRENGGANU. MORNING OF 17 JANUARY HARPOLD MET WITH CHIEF AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER HUMPHRIES AT HIS EAST COAST HEADQUARTERS. HUMPHRIES REMARKED ON ACUTE GOA CONCERN OVER UNAUTHORIZED ARRIVALS IN DARWIN. HE STATED APPREHENSIONS THAT REFUGEE LIVESTOCK AND SOIL USED FOR BALLAST IN BOATS COULD INFECT AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK WITH DESEASES AGAINST WHICH THEY HAVE NO IMMUNITIES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT U.S. PROGRAM WAS SLOW IN MOVING REFUGEES OUT OF MALAYSIA, FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO SAIL TO AUSTRALIA. FINALLY, HUMPHRIES RELATED HIS CONCERN TO HARPOLD THAT THERE IS CONCERN IN AUSTRALIA THAT NEWLY ARRIVED SINO-VIETS MAY JOIN PRO-PEKING CHINESE FACTION ALREADY ACTIVE IN CITIES THERE. U.S. AND AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS DISCUSSED AUSTRALIAN PROCESSING PROCEDURES AND ADVANTAGES OF PROCESSING AND SPONSORING REFUGEES ONCE THEY HAVE ARRIVED IN COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT, EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR DELAY IN U.S. PROGRAM PROCESSING IS REQUIREMNT TO WAIT UNTIL ACVA ASSURANCE RECEIVED BY POST BEFORE REFUGEES CAN BE MOVED TO U.S. LIKE DAUD, HUMPHRIES EXPRESSED DISMAY AT CURRENT REFUGEE ARRIVAL RATE.

4. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH HUMPHRIES, HARPOLD MET WITH UNHCR E. COAST REP FOUINOT. HARPOLD RELATED ESSENTIALS OF HOUSE BILL 7175 TO FOUINOT WHO EXPRESSED APPROVAL. FOUINOT ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY PROPOSED DEFINITION OF TERM "REFUGEE". FOUINOT PROVIDED GENERAL BACKGROUND ON EAST COAST SITUATION AND RESPONDED TO HARPOLD'S QUESTIONS WITH HIS VIEWS ON GOM ATTITUDES WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ESSENTIALLY QUOTE "WAIT AND SEE" UNQUOTE. HARPOLD THEN VISITED KUANTAN CAMPS WHERE JVR BERRY JOINED GROUP. GROUP THEN DROVE TO MERSING, SITE OF PULAU TENGAH BOAT CAMP.

5. MORNING OF 18 JANUARY JOHORE STATE RED CRESCENT COORDINATOR AND

AN AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER JOINED HARPOLD, EMBOFF AND JVR FOR VOYAGE TO PULAU TENGAH. ONCE ARRIVED, HARPOLD INSPECTED CAMPS AND JOINED EMBOFF IN INTERVIEWING FOUR REFUGEES ON WHOM THERE ARE VISAS FALCON HOLDS. AFTERWARDS, HE OBSERVED JVR IN INITIAL INTERVIEW PROCESS OF NEW ARRIVALS AND WITNESSED FOOD DELIVERIES BROUGHT IN BY RED CRESCENT CONTRACTORS.

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ACTION HA-05

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-----114394 240736Z /10

P R 240433Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
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6. DEPARTING MERSING, GROUP PROCEEDED TO SINGAPORE. MORNING OF 19 JANUARY, HARPOLD AND EMBOFF ARRIVED KUALA LUMPUR 0730 AND AFTER TALKS WITH CONSUL AND DCM PROCEEDED TO TRANSIENT CENTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR WITH ICEM PHYSICIAN. WITH 530 JANUARY DEPARTURES SCHEDULED

IN U.S. PROGRAM ALONE, CENTERS FILLED TO CAPACITY. VIRTUALLY ALL BED AND FLOOR SPACE OCCUPIED BY OUTBOUND REFUGEES. ICEM DOCTOR EXPLAINED FINAL OUT-PROCESSING TO HARPOLD AFTER WHICH LATTER DEPARTED FOR AIRPORT AND FLIGHT TO SINGAPORE.

7. POST FOUND HARPOLD VISIT MOST USEFUL. HE WAS GIVEN MAXIMUM EXPOSURE TO REFUGEE SITUATION WITHIN TIME LIMIT SET. (INS/SA SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY BEFORE IMMIGRATION SUB-COMMITTEE JANUARY 24.) IN ADDITION, POST BELIEVES PRESENCE OF INS PERSONNEL ON EAST COAST AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO HAVE BEEN OF SOME REASSURANCE TO LOCAL

AUTHORITIES. GIVEN IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOAT REFUGEE PAROLE PROGRAM FOR 1978, POST NOW PREPARED TO PRESENT TO INS OFFICERS FILES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF OVER 1,700 BOAT REFUGEES IN NOT-ACCEPTED-BY-US OR THIRD COUNTRY CATEGORY. REMAINDER OF FILES ON (800 PLUS) UNACCEPTED REFUGEES READY IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS.

ACTION REQUEST: (A) DEPARTMENT REQUEST INS/CO AUTHORIZE INS OFFICER R. DICK REMAIN MALAYSIA POST JANUARY 25 ETD TO IMPLEMENT 1978 BOAT REFUGEE PROGRAM (STATE 14932 REFTEL). (B) DEPARTMENT REQUEST INS/CO DESPATCH SECOND INS OFFICER FROM CONUS ASAP FOLLOWING EXPECTED JANUARY 25 ANNOUNCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORIZING PAROLE OF 7,000 INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES. WITH ESTIMATED 2,600 "UNACCEPTED" BOAT REFUGEES IN COUNTRY, MOMENTUM GENERATED BY NOW ONGOING INS INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING HUMANITARIAN AND POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF PAROLE PROGRAMS. INS OFFICER DICK WILL BE IN EAST MALAYSIA UNTIL EARLY 25 JANUARY. SHOULD THE REPLY TO THIS REQUEST BE POSITIVE, IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO RECEIVE WORD IN TIME TO REACH HIM BEFORE HE LEAVES EAST MALAYSIA FOR KUALA LUMPUR SO THAT HE CAN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO EAST COAST WITHOUT DOUBLING BACK TO KUALA LUMPUR.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA00603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-1202
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780130/aaaaaywg.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12ea24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3726019
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARPOLD VISIT AND EAST COAST SITUATION
TAGS: SREF, OTRA, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12ea24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014